

Choosing the Right Word

**Vaqueros: America's
 First Cowboys**
 Grammar: Easily Confused Verbs

To help you choose the correct word for a situation, try saying the sentence aloud. Memorize the meanings of easily confused words that sound alike. You can also check definitions in a dictionary.

affect (v.) to influence or cause a change

effect (n.) a result

few (adj.) small in number

less (adj.) small in amount

The fog will **affect** their ability to see the enemy.

The fog had no **effect** on their spirits, however.

Thinking Questions

What definition fits the sentence? What part of speech is needed?

Activity Write the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

1. (There, Their, They're) are a lot of books in the library about the Mexican-American War.
2. I found a book about the famous battles and (sit, set) it on the counter.
3. I'm going to (sit, set) down on the chair and read about how Texas became a state.
4. The librarian told us that each student (may, can) take out two books about the Gold Rush.
5. This rule will (affect, effect) which books I decide to take home.
6. This library has (few, less) biographies of cowboys.